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THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF FARNHAM

A N N U A L R E P O R T

For The Year Ended

31st December, 1959,

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF FARNHAM

1959

Public Health Committee

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Councillor F. Rawlinson (Vice-Chairman)
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Councillor C. R. Radford (Vice-Chairman of the
Council)

Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health:
(Part-time)

F. Bedo Hobbs, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Chief Public Health Inspector:

P. G. Tremain, M.A.P.H.I.,

Additional Public Health Inspector:

C. Webber, C.S.I.B.,

Clerical Staff:

S. J. Collett

Miss B.M. Wills

A N N U A L R E P O R T
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year Ended December 31st, 1959

Telephone -
Farnham 5222.

Public Health Department,
Brightwell Gardens,
East Street,
Farnham,
Surrey.

June, 1960.

TO: The Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Farnham.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit my annual report for the year 1959.

During the year the estimated population has increased by 260 and the number of inhabited dwellings has increased by 188.

There is no significant change in the birth or death rates but it is worth noting that there have been no maternal deaths and no deaths from any infectious disease including tuberculosis but excluding influenza.

One of the most important matters which has occurred during the year is the drainage scheme in the town area, which is almost completed and will prevent some of the lower parts of the town becoming flooded with sewage after heavy rain.

Work in connection with the Food and Drugs Act has continued very satisfactorily during the year and it has not been necessary to make any prosecutions.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank the Council, my staff and that of other departments for their help and co-operation, which has materially contributed to the happiness and smooth running of the Public Health Department.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

F. BEDO HOBBS,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The area of the Urban District of Farnham remains unchanged at 9,039 acres.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population for 1959 is 25,450.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of March, 1959, was 8,137. There were also 240 shops and other business premises with dwellings, giving a total of 8,377. The number of houses owned by the Local Authority at the end of 1959 was 1,460.

The rateable value in 1959 was £467,734 and the sum produced by a penny rate was £1,765.

	Total	M.	F.
Live Births (legitimate)	352	173	179
Live Births (illegitimate)	16	8	8
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	14.4		
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total Live Births	4.3		
Still Births (legitimate)	3	3	0
Still Births (illegitimate)	0	0	0
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births	8.08		
Total Live and Still Births	371	184	187
Deaths	399	179	220
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	15.6		
Deaths of Infants under 1 year -			
Legitimate	8	6	2
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year -			
All infants per 1,000 live births	21.7		
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	22.7		
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-		
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks -			
Legitimate	7	6	1
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Death Rate of Infants under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births	19.02		
Deaths of Infants under 1 week -			
Legitimate	7	6	1
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Death Rate of Infants under 1 week per 1,000 live births	19.02		
Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 live and still births	26.9		

	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Maternal Deaths	0	-	0

Maternal mortality rate per 1,000
live and still births

-

The birth rate per 1,000 live births with the area comparability factor applied is 14.9 which, although as usual lower than that for England and Wales, which is 16.5, is nevertheless higher than it has been since 1949, when it was 15.79.

The death rate per 1,000 of the population is 15.6, which is slightly lower than during the previous four years but again, as usual, is higher than the figure of 11.6 for England and Wales.

The death rate for all infants under 1 year is 21.7, almost the same as that for the country as a whole, namely 22.0.

There were no maternal deaths.

Once again, it is satisfactory to record that there were no deaths from tuberculosis, syphilis or any of the infectious diseases, excluding influenza.

As occurred last year, there were 7 deaths due to motor vehicles.

The classified causes of death are as follows :-

	M.	F.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0	0
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0	0
Syphilitic Disease	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0
Meningococcal Infections	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0
Measles	0	0
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	6	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	12	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	0	8
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	0	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	7	21
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	2	1
Diabetes	0	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	23	46
Coronary Disease, Angina	23	20
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	3
Other Heart Disease	25	47
Other Circulatory Disease	11	15
Influenza	6	7
Pneumonia	9	6
Bronchitis	11	5
Other Disease of Respiratory System	1	0
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	4	2
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	0
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	0
Hyperplasia of Prostate	4	0
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	0	0
Congenital Malformations	1	0
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	24	24
Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	4
All Other Accidents	3	4
Suicide	0	0
Homicide and Operations of War	1	0

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GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

The following is a list of clinics and treatment centres :-

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres

Brightwell House, East Street, Farnham - Tuesday and Thursdays, 2-4 p.m.
The Institute, Rowledge - 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 2-4 p.m.
The Village Hall, Wrecclesham - Every Monday, 2-4 p.m.
The Scouts' Hall, Gravel Hill, Lower Bourne - 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 2-4 p.m.
The Institute, Hale - Every Friday, 2-4 p.m.
The Scouts' Hut, Badshot Lea - 1st and 3rd Mondays, 2-4 p.m.
The Village Hall, Weybourne - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 2-4 p.m.

School and Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic

Brightwell House, East Street, Farnham - 1st, 3rd and 5th Fridays, 9.30 a.m. - 12 noon.

Ante-Natal Clinic

Brightwell House, East Street, Farnham - Wednesdays, 1.30 - 3.30 p.m.

Chest Clinic

Northfield Hospital, Redan Road, Aldershot - Wednesdays, 9.30 a.m., and 2.30 p.m., 1st Friday in month, 10.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m., and 2nd and 4th Fridays, 2.30 p.m.

Dental Clinic

Brightwell House, East Street, Farnham - Monday to Friday, 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m., and 1.30 - 5 p.m.

Speech Training Clinic

Brightwell House, East Street, Farnham - Mondays, 9.30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Ophthalmic Clinic

Brightwell House, East Street, Farnham - 2nd and 4th Fridays, 9.30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Physiotherapy Clinic

Brightwell House, East Street, Farnham - Thursdays, 9 a.m. - 12 noon.

Child Guidance Clinic

Brightwell House, East Street, Farnham - Every Monday, 10 a.m.

Cleansing Centre

Brightwell House, East Street, Farnham - when required.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Ambulance Service, run by St John Ambulance Brigade, has two Bedford ambulances, two Utilicars and two sitting case cars.

It has maintained its high standard of service and efficiency due to the wonderful spirit pervading all sections of the Farnham Division. For this the officers, by their own example, are largely responsible and this is again reflected by the amount of voluntary work put in by members of the Brigade.

It is remarkable to record that 2,296 hours of voluntary duty by day and 6,457 hours by night was put in during the year.

This service is so often taken for granted by people that I feel it is most important for the public to realise what a debt they owe to their fellow citizens who give up so much time to this public service.

I am indebted to Superintendent G. Crawte for the following statistics and notes :-

Type of Case	No. of Cases.	Mileage
Accidents	285	1,619
Emergency Illness	60	282
False Alarms	81	371
Maternity	158	1,264
Hospital Transport	1,698	21,128
Outpatients	4,197	46,650
Infectious Diseases	59	1,008
Transport from one private address to another	13	213
Helping patients in home	18	64
Private Cases	45	2,956
Total	6,614	75,555

A 100% pass was obtained in the annual re-examination.

The Ambulance Cadet Division is thriving under the direction of Mr. G. Harfield. The boys put in 275 hours of duty at public events and obtained second prize in the area competition and third in the County.

The Nursing Cadet Division under Mrs. G. Harfield also had a very successful year, gaining first prize for first aid at the County Competition and doing very well in the Farnham Youth Sports.

In the Regal Division, run by Miss Armitage, seven girls passed their first aid examination and twelve girls their home nursing examination.

HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE

This invaluable service handled 292 patients; approximately 200 less than last year but relieved the pressure on the Ambulance Service.

VOLUNTARY SERVICES

Farnham is well provided with a variety of voluntary services, particularly for the care of the sick and aged.

In organising and running these services, thanks are chiefly due to the members of the W.V.S., B.R.C.S., St. John Ambulance Brigade, S.O.S., Citizens' Advice Bureau, etc. Particulars of these services can be found in a booklet entitled "Farnham - Its Health and Helpful Services", obtainable from the Public Health Offices.

I would like to report that the Meals-on-Wheels Service now operates three days a week, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, instead of two days.

The Night Attendance Scheme has been very busy and seems to be filling a need.

In the past, neither of these services has been sufficiently publicised.

HOME HELP SERVICE

The Home Help Service continues to provide assistance of a domestic nature when there is illness in the home and when help is required on account of age or infirmity. The number of cases attended during 1959 has increased, mainly due to the requirements of the elderly. Approximately 80 cases per week were attended in 1959 compared with 70 per week in 1958.

The following figures indicate the work done :-

Acute Cases	Tuberculosis Cases	Chronic Cases	Maternity Cases	Total
55	2	74	39	170

The total number of visits paid was 610.

More maternity cases would have been attended but for the illness of one of the midwives, which necessitated the admission of more mothers to hospital.

FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION

The Farnham Branch has now completed its third year and has become increasingly busy.

In 1959, 99 new patients were seen compared with 76 in 1958 and there were 259 attendances compared with 180.

The clinic was transferred in June to the new out-patient department at Farnham Hospital and this has been of great benefit to all concerned.

It is probable that a third monthly clinic will shortly be necessary in view of the increasing attendances.

HOSPITALS

Farnham Hospital is the only big hospital in the group and the only one with resident doctors. It therefore has to deal with most of the emergencies and cases of serious illness in the group.

The casualty department serves the whole area administered by the Farnham Group Hospital Management Committee, taking in Canberley, Frimley, Fleet, Farnborough and Aldershot, as well as Farnham and the surrounding district.

The chief improvement in the hospital services in Farnham during 1959 was the opening of a new out-patient department to replace the previous very small and makeshift accommodation in a converted decontamination centre. The new premises are ultimately to be used as the hospital kitchen and were therefore not designed as an out-patient department. Nevertheless, the temporary accommodation provided is a very great improvement and is appreciated by medical, nursing and clerical staff as well as patients.

The following figures show the number of new casualties treated annually :-

1956	...	...	...	2,481
1957	...	...	...	3,236
1958	...	...	...	3,448
1959	...	...	...	4,508

and in 1959 601 of these cases required immediate admission to hospital.

On these grounds alone, apart from the demands of the eye and ear, nose and throat departments, which have long waiting lists, more beds are required.

Approximately 400 mothers per year have to have their confinements in hospitals outside the group and more maternity beds are urgently required. It was hoped that the provision of extra beds and new operating theatres would have been well under way by now but these have been held up pending discussions with the Ministry over the desirability of providing a new hospital in the Aldershot area.

Whatever decision is made with regard to this, its provision is bound to be a long term policy and, in the meantime, it seems obvious that something must be done at once at Farnham Hospital so that surgical and maternity cases can be properly dealt with near the patient's home.

THE ELDERLY

As a result of my report on the problem of the elderly last year, a new Committee has been set up to deal with this. The Committee consists of all bodies interested or connected in any way with the welfare of old folk and it is hoped will co-ordinate and assist the many voluntary organisations at present helping the elderly and infirm.

Plans are going ahead for providing sixteen bungalows for aged folk in West Street under the terms of the bequest left by the late Mr. Ewart.

INFORMATION

The booklet entitled "Farnham - Its health and Helpful Services" has, I think, continued to be of value to newcomers to the district as well as established residents. It is available at Welfare Centres, W.V.S., and libraries as well as the Public Health Offices.

MORTUARY

The arrangement by which the Council have the use of the re-organised mortuary at Farnham Hospital has worked satisfactorily during the past year.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The following table shows the number of notifiable infectious diseases which occurred in 1959 :-

Total Deaths	-	-	-	15*	-	-	-
Cases Admitted to Hospital	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
45 - 65	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 - 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 - 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Under 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
At all Ages	19	7	2	5	3	1	2
Scarlet Fever	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	11	5	1	5	1	4	4
Dysentery	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pneumonia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Food Poisoning	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Meningococcal Infections	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Measles	31	28	31	166	20	4	1
	6	9	6	296	2	2	2

*15 deaths but only 5 cases notified.

MEASLES

For many years there has been a mild epidemic of measles every second year and in 1959 we again experienced it as expected.

Only two cases out of the 296 notified required admission to hospital.

FOOD POISONING

A firm of multiple food shops who have a branch in Farnham gave a party to their employees and friends in London and next day more than 100 of the guests became ill with gastric pain, diarrhoea and vomiting.

Of the people who attended the party from this area, five were local residents and four live outside the district but work in Farnham. Of these, three were affected and the causative organism was *Salmonella typhi-nurium*. All food handlers were excluded from work until three negative examinations were obtained.

IMMUNISATION

Against Diphtheria

The number of children immunised against diphtheria during 1959 was as follows :-

Age Group	Primary	Boosting
Under 5	323	2
5 - 14	8	78
Total	331	80

and the position with regard to the state of immunisation in the district on December 31st, 1959, was :-

Age Group	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 9	10-14	Total
Number of children who completed course between 1955 and 1959	76	1,000	1,162	953	3,191
Number of children who completed course between 1945 and 1954	-	-	481	877	1,358
Estimated mid-year child population	350	1,352	3,517		5,219
Immunity Index	21.7	73.9		60.1	61.1

Sixty-five more children received a primary dose than in 1958 but the number receiving a boosting dose was considerably less, owing to the fact that the schools were not visited. This will be remedied next year.

The immunity index of the child population has fallen slightly from 64.8 to 61.1 and is much below what one would like to see.

The fact that there has been no diphtheria for many years has given rise to an unwarranted complacency and a few cases of diphtheria in the district would, I am sure, do far more to improve our figures than all our propaganda, regrettable as it may be.

Against Whooping Cough

The numbers immunised against whooping cough during 1959 were as follows :-

Age Group	Primary	Boosting
Under 5	307	1
5 - 14	3	18
Total	310	19

As with diphtheria, 55 more children received a primary course of immunisation against whooping cough than in 1958, although the number

receiving a boosting dose was very small.

It is well known that the efficacy of the whooping cough vaccine has greatly improved in recent years and the fact that in 1958 only one case was notified and in 1959 none at all seems to be evidence that immunisation has been of considerable value in Farnham.

Against Tetanus

The numbers immunised against tetanus during 1959 were as follows :-

Age Group	Primary	Boosting
Under 5	58	0
1 - 14	2	1
Total	60	1

The combined vaccine is not used in the clinics but general practitioners are tending to use it more and the above figures refer almost entirely to children having a course of combined triple antigen, an increase of 12 over 1958.

During the year one case of tetanus, in a man aged 77, was admitted to Farnham Hospital. The site of infection was a varicose ulcer, from which spores were recovered. Unfortunately, he developed a fulminating bronchopneumonia and died 36 hours after admission and five days after the first symptoms.

All cases attending Farnham Hospital with lacerated or dirty wounds are given A.T.S. and are given a card informing them that this injection will only give temporary protection and advising them to obtain lasting protection by having three injections of tetanus toxoid commencing 6 to 8 weeks from the time of the injury. It is difficult to estimate how many people complete this course of active immunisation.

Against Poliomyelitis

For the second consecutive year no case of poliomyelitis was notified in Farnham. This is especially noteworthy in view of the prolonged hot summer, generally expected to be suitable for the spread of poliomyelitis.

The position with regard to inoculation against poliomyelitis in 1959 is as follows :-

Children and Young People who have Received the 1st and 2nd Injections

Children Born Between 1943 and 1959	...	...	1,093
Young Persons Born Between 1933 and 1942	...	...	1,293

Children and Young People who have Received 3rd Booster Injection

Children Born Between 1943 and 1959	...	...	3,345
Young Persons Born Between 1933 and 1942	...	...	495

Since the inception of the scheme 82% of the children under 15 and 18% of young persons born between 1933 and 1942, making a total of 4,665 children and young persons, have completed a course of three injections.

The vaccine is now available to all people under 40 as well as certain people and their families who are likely to be exposed to infection.

FARNHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

*With the Compliments of the
Medical Officer of Health*

*Public Health Department,
Brightwell ~~House~~, **Gardens**,
Farnham, Surrey*

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

The number of vaccinations against smallpox carried out during 1959 was :-

Age Group	Vaccinated	Re-vaccinated
Under 1	304	0
1 year	11	0
2 - 4	5	7
5 - 14	4	23
15 & over	12	109
Total	336	139

Once again it is satisfactory to note that the number of children under 1 who were vaccinated has increased. Having averaged 144 per year from 1950 to 1957, it jumped to 265 in 1958 and 304 in 1959. This is, of course, largely accounted for by the increased birth rate but one would still like to see a considerable increase in the number of primary vaccinations.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table gives particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and deaths from that disease during 1959 :-

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	4	4	-	1	-	-	-	-

Again it is worth recording that for the second year running there has been no death from tuberculosis, although four cases who were on the tuberculosis register died from other causes.

VENEREAL DISEASE

As usual, I have enquired at Special Clinics in surrounding neighbourhoods as to whether any cases from Farnham have attended for treatment. During 1959, four men were found to be suffering from gonorrhoea and one man from "Other Conditions". Two of the patients acquired their infection from right outside this area and no information was available in regard to the other two.

Of the women, five were found to be suffering from "Other Conditions" but none from true venereal disease.

No cases of syphilis were reported from the Farnham district.

CANCER

The death rate from cancer in Farnham per 1,000 population in the last four decades shows a progressive increase :-

1929	...	...	1.63
1939	...	...	2.0
1949	...	...	2.28
1959	...	...	2.35

but this is obviously largely due to the increasing age to which people are living, cancer being mainly a disease of the upper age groups.

If the death rate from cancer is compared with the death rate from all causes, it is found that the change is not so obvious :-

Year	Total Deaths	Deaths From Cancer	Percentage of Deaths From Cancer
1929	227	31	13.6
1939	273	43	15.7
1949	331	55	16.6
1959	399	60	15.03

Lung Cancer

The first years work of the General Practitioner Chest X-ray Service for Surrey has produced some illuminating figures, as shown below :-

Number X-rayed	Males	Females	Total
3,349	3,586	6,935	
Active Pulmonary Tuberculosis	21	15	36
Incidence rate per thousand X-rayed	6.2	4.2	5.1
Lung Cancer	42	Nil	42

These figures have been analysed further to show the incidence rate of lung cancer and pulmonary tuberculosis in men aged 45 years and over :

Men Aged 45 Years and Over Number X-rayed	Active Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Lung Cancer
1,570	12 7.6 per thousand X-rayed.	39 24.8 per thousand X-rayed.

It will be seen that in men of 45 years and more 7.6 cases of active pulmonary tuberculosis and 24.8 cases of cancer of the lung were found in every 1,000 cases X-rayed. If an effort to diagnose these cases earlier is to be made, it is obviously desirable for men over 45 to have their chests X-rayed at least once a year.

Although the figures relating to lung cancer in Farnham are too small to be statistically significant, it is of interest to record them. The number of deaths in Farnham from lung cancer since 1950 is as follows :-

Year	Population	Males	Females	Total
1950	24,220	5	0	5
1951	24,080	5	0	5
1952	24,030	3	1	4
1953	24,150	10	1	11
1954	24,520	10	0	10
1955	24,720	14	1	15
1956	24,890	13	4	17
1957	25,130	8	0	8
1958	25,190	10	2	12
1959	25,450	12	2	14

The only consolation we have in Farnham is that the number of cases is less than the average for England and Wales which in 1958 for the same population as Farnham, was 19 for men and 3 for women.

Whatever other factors there may be in the causation of lung cancer, there is no doubt whatever that continued excessive smoking greatly increases the risk of producing this disease.

It is difficult to persuade people who are addicted to the habit of smoking to give it up but every effort should be made to persuade young adults not to start it, and I would like to suggest that the following article by Dr. Hugh Paul, which appeared in "Better Health" in October, 1959, should be given wide publicity. It is amusing, apt and very much to the point :-

"GIMME A GASPER, MATE!"

By Dr. Hugh Paul

Persons who smoke heavily, that is, persons who smoke more than 20-25 cigarettes a day, die more frequently from cancer of the lung than non-smokers. That is a plain, simple fact.

A number of research workers have studied the subject and have shown, time after time, with unvarying monotony that heavy smokers are more likely to die of lung cancer than non-smokers. Dr. Richard Doll and his colleague, Prof. Bradford Hill, a renowned statistician, found this to be true. So did Muller in 1939, Schairer and Schoniger in 1943, Wassink in 1948, Schrek et al., in 1950, Mills and Porter in 1950, Levin et al., in the same year. Wynder and Graham, also in 1950, McConnell et al., in 1952. And "et al." means his pals who worked with him (or them). So that's that.

Now tobacco addicts won't accept these findings. They say that, first, cancer of the lung has not increased at all; secondly, that if it has increased, it is only because there are more old people now than there were in the past; and, thirdly, that the proof of the connection between lung cancer and smoking is only statistical and not based on clinical (or bedside) findings.

So let's deal with these objections.

There are more people in the cancer age-groups, and much of the increase in lung cancer is therefore due merely to the age of the population. This fact is generally, indeed almost universally, accepted. Again, with modern aids, lung cancer can be more skilfully diagnosed and therefore more often than in the past. This again is clearly true.

But this leaves the case against smoking untouched. Cancer of the lung is not diagnosed better nowadays in smokers than in non-smokers. And

heavy smokers die more frequently from lung cancer than non-smokers. There are now more old people than in the past; but there are more old non-smokers as well as more heavy smokers, and it is as easy to diagnose lung cancer in a non-smoker as in a heavy smoker, and more heavy smokers than non-smokers die of lung cancer. Doll, Hill, Schairer, Schoniger, Wassink, Schrek, Mills, Porter, Levin, Wynder, Graham and Connell have proved it.

Et al. (their pals).

But, say the poor suffering mutts, there may be more deaths from lung cancer among heavy smokers, but there is no proof that smoking actually causes lung cancer. Non-smokers die of lung cancer (admittedly not so often). This is quite true. There is no proof.

But, although heavy-drinking drivers have more accidents than teetotallers, there is no proof that alcohol is the cause of the accidents. Of course it isn't! It's the other fellow on the road - probably a strict T.T., a Quaker, and a non-smoker who reads Shakespeare who is responsible; if he weren't there, there might be no accident. After all, a drunken driver could drive all over the Sahara and be as safe as an ugly girl in the Moulin Rouge! Drunken drivers are quite safe - that is, as long as some animate or inanimate object doesn't get in their path. But nevertheless the fact is that drunken drivers kill more people than sober ones. Fact! It isn't the drink - it's the cars stopping too suddenly.

And so there's no proof that heavy smoking causes cancer of the lung; but there is proof that more heavy smokers die of cancer of the lung than non-smokers. See Doll, Hill, and all the others. Et al.

Finally, these people like Doll and Hill and Et. al. are only dealing with statistics and not with bedside patients. Did Doll see any of these patients? Not on your life! Did Hill see any? Divil a wan! Did Et al. see any people gasping their lives out with cancer of the lung? Not a Pygmalion one!

Well, let's deal with actual patients, and not with dry and useless statistics.

Wait a minute, wait a minute.

Each "case" examined by Doll was based on a death certificate, and the death certificate was signed by the family or hospital doctor - or the coroner. Each case represented an actual living person, tenderly waited on by nurses or relatives, supervised by a doctor. Oh, yes, they were real people and their sorrowing relatives don't think of them as "statistics". Neither did Doll, Hill, Schairer, and Et al.

Statistics! For 1958, the Registrar General's "statistics" showed that doctors and coroners had certified that no fewer than 19,809 persons had died of lung cancer that year. It's a lot. They weren't all heavy smokers, but, let me repeat, heavy smokers are much more likely to die of lung cancer than non-smokers. And when a heavy smoker gives up his cigarettes he is much less likely to die of lung cancer.

Why do heavy smokers try so hysterically to decry the facts about smoking and lung cancer? The answer is obvious. They are drug addicts, and the drug addict will do anything but give up his drug. Heavy smokers won't give up smoking, but they will give up reading about smoking and lung cancer in the papers. Drug addicts! It's an insult; we are not drug addicts, they say indignantly. Drug addiction is anti-social and drug addicts are looked down upon, but heavy smokers are not despised. Shades of Et al.! Not drug addicts! Even the fat gluttonous gourmand could do without food for several hours, but heavy smokers will go almost crazy if they have to travel for two hours and five minutes in a non-smoking compartment of a train going from Birmingham to Paddington. And don't forget that the gluttonous gourmand and the cocaine or heroin addict don't force other people to share their food or drugs. But the heavy smoker in a theatre or cinema compels all his neighbours to inhale his expired tobacco smoke.

Don't get me wrong. I am not suggesting that these poor, unfortunate tobacco addicts should give up their tobacco. Not on your life! Life without the burning weed would be purposeless to them, and they will have a short and merry life. The life may be merry, if the death is a bit gaspy. But, in heaven's name, let them keep their children from smoking. Let the next generation live!

Gimme a gasper, mate! Yes, the word gasper is apt!

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1959

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following classified table is submitted of (a) the nature and number of inspections made during the year; (b) the total number of notices served; (c) the result of the service of such notices :-

(a) Number and Nature of Inspections made During the Year :-

Houses inspected under Public Health Acts and Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	294
Re-visits paid to above houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	225
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Vermicious Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	296
Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	333
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Rats and Mice (By Public Health Inspectors)	...	...	...	...	...	...	139
Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Shops Inspected under the Shops Act, 1950	...	...	...	...	...	...	89
Pet Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Infectious Disease Prevention	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	98
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	114
Fishmongers and Poulterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	229
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Dairies and Milk Distributors	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Ice-cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Market Stalls	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Mobile Food Vans	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Food and Drugs Sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	76
Milk Sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	157
Ice-cream Sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Swimming Bath Water Sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	488
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	211
(b) Total Number of Notices Served	...	...	...	...	...	...	58

(c) Results of Notices :-

(1) Preliminary Notices -

(a) Complied with	...	...	...	...	...	54
(b) Work not commenced	...	...	...	...	...	<u>4</u>
Total	...	...	...	...	...	58
						<u><u> </u></u>

(2) Statutory Notices -

(a) Complied with	...	...	...	...	...	2
(b) Work not commenced	...	...	...	...	...	<u>1</u>
Total	...	...	...	...	...	3
						<u><u> </u></u>

In addition to the above, five preliminary notices not complied with at the end of 1958 were complied with during 1959.

HOUSING

(a) General

The problem of the repair of the older type properties is still apparent, one of the main factors being the high cost of this type of work. It has been noted that when this type of property does become vacant, in most cases it is reconditioned and improved, often by the help of the Improvement Grant Scheme. In this area, there is a large demand for the smaller old type property which is suitable for reconditioning.

In some cases owners have had difficulty in getting works of repair carried out and in many cases there has been considerable delay due to builders having other commitments.

(b) Rent Act, 1957

The number of applications received for Certificates of Disrepair was only four for the whole year. It would appear that many tenants are still not taking advantage of the provisions of this Act.

The following table gives details of the four applications for Certificates of Disrepair received :-

Applications Received	Undertakings Given by Landlord	Certificates Issued	Certificates Cancelled
4	3	1	1

(c) Slum Clearance

Little progress was made during the year under review, the only item I have to report being that one "Undertaking Not to Re-let" was cancelled, the property being reconditioned.

(d) Overcrowding

No case of statutory overcrowding was found.

SWIMMING BATHS

Twenty-four samples of water were taken from the Council's two swimming baths. These were submitted for bacteriological examination and all the results were satisfactory. This is most gratifying, considering the hot summer and the number of persons using the baths.

FACTORIES

The following tables give details of the administration of the Factories Acts, 1937 to 1959, during the year :-

1. Inspections

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories (Non-Mechanical)	5	5	0	0
Factories (Mechanical)	122	42	4	0
Other Premises	9	9	0	0
Total	136	56	4	0

2. Number of Cases in Which Defects Were Found

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H. M. Inspector	Referred by H. M. Inspector	Prosecutions
Unsuitable Sanitary Conveniences	2	2	0	2	0
Other offences	2	2	0	0	0
Total	4	4	0	2	0

3. Outworkers

No notification has been received of any outworkers in the district.

4. Means of Escape in Case of Fire

The department is responsible for administering the sections of the 1937 Act relating to the issue of Certificates as to the means of escape in case of fire. The following Certificates were issued during 1959 and, in each case, a plan of the lay-out of the premises was prepared :-

New Certificates	...	...	...	3
Amended Certificates	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	4
				==

SHOPS

Eighty-nine visits were made in connection with the provisions of the Shops Act, 1950. In some cases it was necessary to draw the attention of shopkeepers to the necessity of displaying the required notices.

There still appears to be dissatisfaction amongst a number of the small general traders regarding the provisions relating to Sunday Trading and Closing Hours. This, in the main, is due to the mobile food vans being exempt from these provisions.

A review of the Shops Act, 1950, would be welcomed.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Licences in respect of two premises were issued under the provisions of this Act. The shops concerned mainly deal in birds and fish, although one does handle tortoises and terrapins. The premises were kept under supervision and were maintained in a satisfactory condition.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

There is only a small number of industrial chimneys in the district and no special difficulties from these have been experienced.

RODENT AND PEST CONTROL

(a) Rodent Control

One man is employed for rodent control work and, due to his keen interest, prompt attention is given to all complaints, thus ensuring that no large infestations exist in the area.

All likely breeding grounds are kept under regular supervision and special attention is paid to the Council's refuse tip.

A 10% test baiting of sewers was carried out in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Rat infestation was found to be present in two isolated branch sewers and treatment work was carried out to these two branches.

The free service to dwellinghouses has been maintained and 21 annual and 25 immediate contracts were made in respect of business premises, hospitals, schools and farms.

(b) Pest Control

Disinfestation work for other pests carried out by the department is limited to those having a bearing on public health, i.e., bugs, fleas, flies and cockroaches. A charge is made for this type of work.

All the County Council school canteens were treated as a precaution against fly infestation.

(c) Wasps

The summer of 1959 was noted for its good weather and the large number of wasps nests. The rodent operative destroyed 70 wasps nests, 62 being on private premises and 8 on local authority property. The Council make a charge of 15/- for each wasps nest destroyed.

(d) Mosquito Control

Due to the hot summer, there was considerably more mosquito breeding apparent than usual. Complaints were received from residents in the Rowhills area and a limited amount of control work was undertaken.

This work, done on a large scale, does require specialised equipment and can prove quite costly.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

There were 24 licences renewed at the beginning of the year and during the year 8 new licensed caravans have been stationed within the district.

Difficulties have been experienced with caravans being stationed for several months at a time on unlicensed land at The Hatches. In the main, conditions have not been satisfactory but in most cases the caravans have been moved before the legal procedure as set out in the Public Health Act, 1936, could be completed.

Legal proceedings were taken against the occupier of one caravan in respect of keeping an unlicensed caravan on land at the Hatches for a period of more than 42 consecutive days; a fine of £2 was imposed.

AGRICULTURE (SAFETY, HEALTH & WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT, 1956

Sanitary Conveniences on Farms

During 1959, 10 farms employing seasonal workers were visited. At one repairs to the sanitary conveniences were found to be necessary, the work being carried out without the necessity of serving a notice.

It is regretted that under this Act the local authorities' powers are confined to sanitary accommodation and do not include the provisions relating to washing facilities, which are the responsibility of the appropriate Minister.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

Water is supplied by the Wey Valley Water Company. Samples submitted for chemical examination quarterly and bacteriological examination weekly continued to be satisfactory throughout the year.

There are only seven properties in the district not served with a piped supply.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

This service is under the control of the Engineer and Surveyor. A weekly collection is carried out throughout the district and controlled tipping has continued at the sandpit in Weydon Lane.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

I am indebted to the Engineer and Surveyor for the following report on sewerage and sewage disposal :-

1. Main Drainage

The contract for the replacement of existing sewer outfalls in the Town Area is well advanced and the following lengths of sewers have been completed :-

30" diameter concrete tube	...	900 yards
18" diameter concrete tube	...	310 yards
15" diameter concrete tube	...	260 yards
12" diameter cast iron tube	...	500 yards

House connections have been made to the new sewers but disposal to the sewage works at Water Lane is still being effected via the old pumping station.

2. Sewer Extensions

Sewer extensions have been carried out at :-

- (a) Underhill Lane - 6" S.G. approximately 80 yards to accept new development in Aveley Lane.
- (b) Alton Road - 6" S.G. approximately 55 yards to accept Trimmers Almshouses.
- (c) Shortheath Road - 4" S.G. approximately 30 yards to accept existing properties.

3. Sewage Disposal

The existing pumping station at Guildford Road is inadequate and is being replaced with a new pumping station with a present pumping capacity of 1,800 g.p.m. This work is well advanced and will be in commission by August, 1960. The existing sewage disposal works' equipment is being supplemented with detritor and screening equipment, this work being in an advanced state of construction.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

608 visits were made during the year to food shops, cafes, canteens, bakehouses, licensed premises, etc., 81 of these visits being to registered premises. It is this personal contact with the trade which is most important in effecting overdue improvements and in maintaining satisfactory standards of preparation and handling of food.

Refrigeration and especially the handling of frozen foods is becoming more apparent in the food trade but the storage of prepared meat products at unsuitable temperatures during hot weather is still noticed.

There are still a few premises where improvement is necessary in the standard of hygiene but the number of these premises is diminishing and standards, generally, are being raised.

The total number of food shops in the area is :-

Bakehouses and Baker's Shops	...	...	15
Butchers	...	...	23
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	20
Confectioners	...	...	24
Fishmongers and Fried Fish Shops	...	...	12
Greengrocers	13
Grocers	58
Factory and School Canteens	25
Licensed Houses	49
 Total	239
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Included in the above figures are the following premises which are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 :-

Sale of Ice-cream	...	...	...	...	...	112
Manufacture of Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	15
Manufacture of Sausages and Preparation or Preservation of Food	7
Preparation or Preservation of Food	20
 Total	154
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ICE-CREAM

There is no ice-cream made in the area, all the shops being supplied by one or other of the large manufacturers.

Twenty-five samples were taken during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for Methylene Blue Testing; all the results were satisfactory.

Little difficulty is now experienced with this commodity but attention has still to be paid to the handling of the unwrapped product.

Seven additional premises were registered during the year for the sale of ice-cream.

MILK SUPPLY

The following table shows the number of licences granted during the year under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949-53 :-

Designation	Dealer's	Supplementary
Pasteurised	15	1
Tuberculin Tested	7	1
Sterilised	11	1
Total	33	3

The only raw milk sold in the area is a small quantity of farm bottled tuberculin tested milk. A few of the retail shops sell sterilised milk but, in the main, pasteurised milk is retailed.

There is one H.T.S.T. pasteurising plant in the district, from which weekly samples are taken, all which passed the phosphatase test for pasteurised milk.

157 samples of milk were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at St. Luke's Hospital, Guildford. A summary of the results is shown in the following table :-

Designation	No. of Samples Tested	Phosphatase Test		Methylene Blue Test		Turbidity Test	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed
Pasteurised	105	105	0	99	6*	-	-
Sterilised	0	-	-	-	-	0	0
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised	50	50	0	46	4*	-	-
Tuberculin Tested Farm Bottled	2	-	-	2	0	-	-

*Tests Void.

There are two dairies registered in the district under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949-59.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1933 & 1954

Five slaughtermen's licences were issued during 1959.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Two private slaughterhouses were licensed but only one was regularly used, and this slaughterhouse was not used for the slaughter of cattle.

The following table shows the number of animals slaughtered and inspected :-

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	0	309	388	0
Number inspected	0	7	309	388
All diseases except <u>Tuberculosis & Cysticerci</u>				
Whole carcases condemned	0	0	0	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	0	0	13	49
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	0	0	4.2	13.1
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>				
Whole carcases condemned	0	0	0	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	0	0	0	7
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0	0	0	1.8

These figures show a slight increase on last year's figures. As can be seen by the table, a 100% inspection was maintained.

In the main, unsound food is disposed of by burial at the Council's controlled refuse tip, every effort being made to ensure that it is adequately covered. Any large quantity of condemned meat is disposed of to a large reputable contractor for manufacture into fertiliser.

Foods inspected and found unsound during the year were :-

Commodity	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Canned Meat	14	0	24	$\frac{3}{4}$
Canned Fruit	6	2	7	
English Beef	5	1	2	
Canned Vegetables	3	3	17	$\frac{1}{2}$
Canned Tomato Puree	3	1	14	$\frac{3}{4}$
Rabbits	2	0	26	
Pigs' Offal	1	1	25	$\frac{1}{4}$
Imported Lamb	1	1	9	$\frac{1}{2}$
English Lamb	1	0	1	
Pork	1	2	26	
Chicken		3	15	
Wet Fish		3	0	
Sausages	2	2	17	$\frac{1}{2}$
Canned Fruit Juice	2	2	10	$\frac{1}{4}$
Pigs' Heads	2	2	6	
Prunes	1	1	13	
Ox Offal	1	1	11	$\frac{1}{2}$
Carried Forward	2	5	1	3

Commodity	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Brought Forward	2	5	1	3
Canned Cream Rice				26
Canned Fish				21 $\frac{1}{4}$
Canned Spaghetti				16
Pickles and Chutneys				19 $\frac{1}{2}$
Imported Ham				14
Tomato Paste				11 $\frac{1}{4}$
Fruit Cake				7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Curry Paste and Curry Mixture				7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sheeps' Offal			1	0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Canned Steak & Kidney Pudding				4
Sugar				4
Jam				4
Meat Pies				4
Guava Jelly				3
Canned Mushrooms				2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sandwich Spread				2
Butter				2
Tea				1
Lard				1
Salad Cream				1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Biscuits				1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Canned Strained Cereal				1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Canned Pimentos				1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Total	2	6	3	16

In addition, 136 tins of milk and cream, 85 tins soup, 82 chicken cutlets, 14 packets scone mixture, 4 tins tomato juice, 3 tins Nescafe and 1 tin Bourn-Vita were inspected and found unsound.

This list appears extensive for an authority of this size, but the major amount of this unsound food comes from a large wholesale food depot in the town which handles considerable quantities of all kinds of foodstuffs.

The large amount of unsound carcase meat is due to a basement refrigerator becoming flooded in a week-end summer storm, necessitating condemnation of the meat and meat products contained in the refrigerator.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD

Mr. D. D. Moir, M.Sc., F.R.I.C., continued to act as Public Analyst to this authority and his help and guidance is much appreciated.

The following table gives a summary of the results of the total number of samples taken by your Inspectors during the year :-

Articles	Analysed			Adulterated or Irregular		
	Formal	Informal	Total.	Formal	Informal	Total.
<u>Food</u>						
Milk	36	1	37	-	-	-
Black Olives	-	1	1	-	-	-
Table Jelly	-	2	2	-	-	-
Rice	1	-	1	-	-	-
Carried Forward	37	4	41	-	-	-

Articles	Analysed		Adulterated or Irregular		Total.
			Informal	Formal	
	Total.	Informal	Formal		
Food (Cont.)					
Brought Forward	37	4	41	-	-
Butter	1	-	1	-	-
Coffee	1	-	1	-	-
Custard Powder	1	1	1	-	-
"Savormix"	1	1	1	-	-
Chocolate Dessert Powder	1	1	1	-	-
Tomato Ketchup	1	1	1	-	-
Salad Cream	1	1	1	-	-
Minced Crab	1	1	1	-	-
Mayonnaise	1	1	1	-	-
Fish Cakes	1	-	1	-	-
Orange Squash	1	-	1	-	-
Dried Mint	1	1	1	-	-
Pastry Mix	1	1	1	-	-
Coffee & Chicory Essence	1	1	1	-	-
Creameed Spaghetti Milk Pudding	1	1	1	-	-
Processed Peas	1	2	2	-	-
Meat Paste	1	2	2	-	-
Macedcines	1	1	1	-	-
Crene of Tomato Soup	1	1	1	-	-
Ginger Peter Pudding	1	1	1	-	-
Sweetened Tea Cake Mixture	1	1	1	-	-
Almond Icing Marzipan	1	1	1	-	-
Mint Sauce	1	1	1	-	-
Mixed Cut Peel	1	1	1	-	-
Steak & Kidney Pudding	1	1	1	-	-
Lemon Pie Filling	1	1	1	-	-
Mincemeat	1	1	1	-	-
Creameed Rice Milk Pudding	1	1	1	-	-
Chicken Cutlets	1	-	1	-	-
Chicken Croquettes	1	-	1	-	-
Luncheon Meat Loaf	1	1	1	-	-
Drugs					
Aspirin Tablets	-	1	1	-	-
Wild Herb Cough Mixture	-	1	1	-	-
Total	43	33	76	-	-

The total number of samples taken was 76 and out of this number 37 were milk samples. 24 of the milk samples submitted for analysis were ordinary milk having an average composition of 3.71% fat and 8.75% solids not fat. The remaining 13 samples were Channel Island grade having an average composition of 4.34% fat and 8.94% solids not fat.

